

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, there are 9,612 homeless veterans in California, many of whom suffer from conditions, such as post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury, that make it difficult to obtain employment or housing; and

WHEREAS, Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers, which subsidize rental payments for homeless veterans and provide supportive services, have the lowest housing placement rate among vouchers issued by HACLA with a 33 percent placement rate; and

WHEREAS, the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) is the State of California's anti-discrimination law currently prohibits discrimination in employment for military or veteran status, but does not extend the same protections for housing discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the lack of protections at the State-level have in essence declared that discrimination against veterans in housing is acceptable and have left many veterans unable to utilize their VASH vouchers to secure housing; and

WHEREAS, currently pending before the California State Senate is SB 222 (Hill) which would add military and veteran status to the list of characteristics protected against housing discrimination under FEHA and define source of income as including VASH vouchers; and

WHEREAS, by including military and veteran status in FEHA, this bill would provide veterans with protection from discrimination in housing and would allow victims to file a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing in order to seek relief; and

WHEREAS, expanding the scope of the "source of income" definition in FEHA would prohibit landlords from turning away a prospective tenant based on VASH voucher usage and would prohibit advertising accommodations as not available to VASH voucher holders; and

WHEREAS, source of income discrimination protections result in an increase in voucher acceptance and would ensure that vulnerable veterans are protected from falling into homelessness; and

WHEREAS, these common sense inclusions into FEHA would aid in correcting the injustice of a status quo which consents to the discrimination of veterans and would ensure that veterans can be adequately housed with the supportive services they need;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 222 (Hill) which would add military and veteran status to the list of characteristics protected against housing discrimination under FEHA and define source of income as including VASH vouchers.

PRESENTED BY: *Mitch O'Farrell*
MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY *Wesley KRAKORIAN*

ORIGINAL

JUN 26 2019

abg *[Signature]*